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ABSTRACT

Reflecting educators' ongoing efforts to incorporate the female literary tradition into the canon that is commonly taught in high school and college classrooms, this bibliography derived from the ERIC database presents annotations of 21 journal articles and books concerning women writers and the canon published between 1984 and 1992. Sections of the FAST Bib are "Reevaluating the Canon" and "Teaching Literature by Women." (RS)

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WOMEN WRITERS and the CANON

by Melinda Hamilton and Susan Moke

Fifteen or twenty years ago, literature courses built around the established canon of primarily male-authored texts were the norm in high-school and college classrooms. But now things are changing. In the last two decades, literary scholars have tackled the job of discovering and writing about a widely neglected body of work by women writers. Collections such as Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar's *Norton Anthology of Literature by Women* (1985) demonstrate the rich array of genres, plots, themes, and voices that comprise the female literary tradition. The references in this *ERIC FAST Bib* reflect educators' ongoing efforts to incorporate the female literary tradition into the canon that is commonly taught in high-school and college classrooms.

Two types of citations are provided in this bibliography: ERIC documents and journal articles.

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Reevaluating the Canon

AN: EJ442375
AU: Hedrick, Joan D.
TI: Parlor Literature: Harriet Beecher Stowe and the Question of "Great Women Artists."
PY: 1992
JN: *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*; v17 n2 p275-303 Win 1992
AB: Great women artists may go unrecognized because the institutional frameworks and cultural histories by which they are judged are missing. Harriet Beecher Stowe's work, identified as parlor literature, is pivotal in the development of a national literature.

AN: EJ439051
AU: Kynell, Teresa
TI: Wives, Mothers, and Scholars: What Women Write About.
PY: 1992
JN: *Teaching English in the Two Year College;* v19 n1 p55-60 Feb 1992
AB: Discusses the need for reading anthologies that not only contain the works of female writers but

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also works that do not specifically deal with women's issues. Discusses modal versus thematic organization in writing and areas of traditional female concern.

AN: ED333468
AU: Applebee, Arthur N.
TI: A Study of High School Literature Anthologies. Report Series 1.5.
PY: 1991
AB: Discusses studies that examine literature instruction in U.S. secondary schools. Concludes that the curriculum as a whole remains relatively traditional in its emphasis, largely excluding women and nonwhite authors.
AV: Literature Center, University at Albany Ed b-9, 1400 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12222.

AN: EJ442164
AU: Casement, William
TI: The Great Books and Politics.
PY: 1991
JN: *Perspectives on Political Science;* v20 n3 p133-40 Sum 1991
AB: Argues that the study of Great Books need not be a politically conservative enterprise. Urges that non-Western works be included as well as the best of women and minority writers.

AN: EJ414144
AU: Banks, James A.
TI: The Battle over the Canon: Cultural Diversity and Curriculum Reform.
PY: 1990
JN: *Social Studies Texan;* v6 n1 p44-45 Spr-Sum 1990
AB: Discusses the conflict between supporters of the established European-centric, male-dominated standard for evaluating and selecting knowledge and those advocating the inclusion of ethnic, gender, and racial considerations in the curriculum. Maintains that only a canon that reflects cultural diversity can foster global participation.

AN: ED318013
AU: Moran, Charles, Ed.; Penfield, Elizabeth F., Ed.
TI: *Conversations: Contemporary Critical Theory and the Teaching of Literature.*
PY: 1990
AB: An extension of conversations that originally took place at summer institutes devoted to literary theory, this book presents diverse critical perspectives on current topics of literature, such as post-structuralism, cultural criticism, reader-response theory, and issues of gender and canon. (243 p.)
AV: National Council of Teachers of English, 1111 Kenyon Road, Urbana, IL 61801 (Stock No. 08601-0015; $11.95 member; $14.95 non-member).

AN: EJ395350
TI: Canon Busting and Cultural Literacy.
PY: 1989
JN: *National Forum: Phi Kappa Phi Journal;* v69 n3 p22-38 Sum 1989
AB: Articles on the literary canon include: "Contingencies of Value" (Barbara Herrnstein Smith); "Canon Fodder, the Cultural Hustle, and the Minotaur" (R. T. Smith); "The Feminist Challenge to the Canon" (Elizabeth Fox-Genovese).

AN: EJ400290
AU: Sluder, Brenda
TI: The Voice of the Other: Effecting Change through Feminist Criticism.
PY: 1989
JN: *Teaching English in the Two Year College;* v16 n3 p206-09 Oct 1989
AB: Elaborates on the continual problem of male dominance in literature, as it pervades the literary canon, literary criticism, and the language. Suggests how changes can be made through the application of feminist criticism.

AN: EJ371686
AU: Curran, Stuart
TI: Altering the "I": Women Poets and Romanticism.
PY: 1988
JN: *ADE Bulletin;* n88 p9-12 Win 1988
AB: Notes that although women dominated the English world of letters in the late 1700s, eighteenth-century women writers have been ignored by literary scholars and historians. Asserts that this discrimination in favor of the canonized Romantics excludes women Romantics' valuable and lively literary contributions.

AN: EJ371871
AU: Langland, Elizabeth
TI: Pop, Goes the Canon.
PY: 1988
JN: *ADE Bulletin;* n89 p24-28 Spr 1988
AB: Claims that people must deal with the challenges of reading for both sexes because both men and women are culturally constructed. Argues that emphasizing only women's reading and women's

writing inevitably leads to a ghettoization of feminist concerns.

AN: EJ381797
AU: Pondrom, Cyrena N.
TI: Gender and the (Re)Formation of the Canon: Is Politics All?
PY: 1988
JN: *ADE Bulletin*; n91 p21-28 Win 1988
AB: Argues that literary history and estimations of literary value are inseparable and that their connection has import for debate on the contents of the literary canon. Suggests possible requirements for developing a feminist theory and practice of evaluation.

AN: EJ329500
AU: Aiken, Susan Hardy
TI: Women and the Question of Canonicity.
PY: 1986
JN: *College English*; v48 n3 p288-301 Mar 1986
AB: Tells how the traditional Anglo-American literary canon has historically functioned as a paternal edifice, erected on a "plot" that has contained and maintained itself by either keeping women out or keeping them in secondary and dependent positions. Considers revision as a solution.

AN: EJ341072
AU: Coles, Nicholas
TI: Democratizing Literature: Issues in Teaching Working-Class Literature.
PY: 1986
JN: *College English*; v48 n7 p664-80 Nov 1986
AB: Argues that the exclusion of the literature of women, of black, ethnic, and working-class writers from the established literary canon has less to do with valuations of literary quality than with the social distribution of power.

Teaching Literature by Women

AN: EJ423748
AU: Demaray, Elyse; Landay, Lori
TI: Sense of Self: Women Writers of the Harlem Renaissance.
PY: 1990
JN: *Feminist Teacher*; v5 n2 p32-33 Fall 1990
AB: Outlines a course designed for undergraduate sophomores and juniors that examines racial and sexual stereotypes as portrayed by women writers of the Harlem Renaissance. Questions the canon that has excluded Black women writers from interpretations of the Harlem Renaissance. Explains the course's three themes: sexuality, passing (for white), and motherhood.

AN: ED326880
AU: Schullstrom, Faith Z., Comp.
TI: *Expanding the Canon: Bridges to Understanding.* Articles from *English Journal*, 1987-89.
PY: 1990
AB: The articles selected for the book tap a rich vein of multicultural literature, including works by African Americans, Native Americans, women, and authors from outside North America and Europe. The selections span many genres. Each article presents practical suggestions for incorporating these works into the secondary classroom. (85 p.)
AV: National Council of Teachers of English, 1111 Kenyon Rd., Urbana, IL 61801 (Stock No. 16477-3020; $5.95 members, $7.95 nonmembers).

AN: EJ403628
AU: Bischoff, Joan
TI: Fellow Rebels: Annie Dillard and Maxine Hong Kingston (Reclaiming the Canon).
PY: 1989
JN: *English Journal*; v78 n8 p62-67 Dec 1989
AB: Discusses a pair of books (Annie Dillard's *An American Childhood* and Maxine Hong Kingston's *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood among Ghosts*) that are well-written, discussion-worthy, and sufficiently alike in content that they can be taught in tandem for comparative purposes as part of a contemporary-literature unit.

AN: EJ385210
AU: Waxman, Barbara Frey
TI: Politics of the Survey Course: Feminist Challenges.
PY: 1989
JN: *Teaching English in the Two Year College*; v16 n1 p17-22 Feb 1989
AB: Argues that survey courses can teach students about values underlying syllabi and show that literary interpretations are political. Suggests four ways to change the survey course syllabus, and discusses the effects of these changes on classroom discussions.

AN: ED281205
AU: Carlson, Margaret
TI: *Teaching Books by and about Women.*
PY: 1987
AB: Because half of all students are female, and because role models are important in forming ideas

and images, more attention should be devoted to finding books with heroic, tragic, or significant female characters. One of the most interesting ways to introduce more women's writing into the curriculum is to pair books so that different gender points of view can be compared and contrasted. (5 p.)

AN: EJ350589
AU: Hoffmann, Leonore Noll
TI: Student Readers and the Civil War Letters of an Ohio Woman.
PY: 1986
JN: *Reader, Essays in Reader Oriented Theory, Criticism, and Pedagogy;* n15 p34-47 Spr 1986
AB: Describes the creation of two anthologies of personal narratives by women. Explains how letters can stimulate students to become active readers using, as an example, letters written by a woman during the Civil War.
AV: Department of Humanities, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI 49931.

AN: EJ294753
AU: Kamholtz, Jonathan Z.; Sheets, Robin A.
TI: Women Writers and the Survey of English Literature: A Proposal and Annotated Bibliography for Teachers.
PY: 1984
JN: *College English;* v46 n3 p278-300 Mar 1984
AB: Suggests women writers as alternatives to traditionally taught male writers, identifies women writers as representatives of parallel tradition and genres not usually studied in a survey, and discusses some of the best feminist scholarship and criticism.

AN: EJ304051
AU: Whelchel, Marianne
TI: Transforming the Canon with Nontraditional Literature by Women.
PY: 1984
JN: *College English;* v46 n6 p587-97 Oct 1984
AB: Suggests and describes nontraditional women's literature appropriate for inclusion in English courses and shows how it fills curricular gaps in terms of the voices and experience it makes available.

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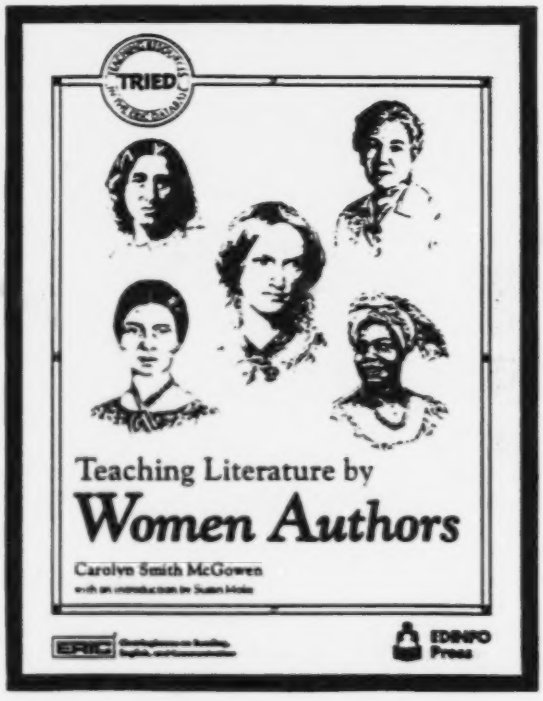

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